

Kennedy 'plot' —row flares

'KEEP OUT'
SAYS DISTRICT
ATTORNEY

JEREMY CAMPBELL

WASHINGTON, Monday
Members of the
Warren Commission are stepping into the heated controversy over a new investigation into the murder of President Kennedy, now being conducted in a blaze of national publicity in New Orleans.

Last night Mr. Gerald Ford, a Republican Congressman and a Warren Commission member, demanded that any fresh information on the assassination uncovered by law enforcement officers in New Orleans should be turned over "immediately" to government agencies in Washington.

A discreet but active tussle now seems to be developing at the upper levels of the American government over the dramatic events unfolding in New Orleans.

Fascinated

Officials in Washington are by now considerably fascinated and rather embarrassed by what is going on. They are anxious to involve themselves in the new investigation, but at the moment without any striking success.

Mr. Jim Garrison, the New Orleans District Attorney, is running the show. It is his baby. He is conducting a hunt for members of a conspiracy active in the city during the summer and autumn of 1963 who were involved, along with Lee Harvey Oswald, in the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas.

Mr. Garrison says his office has jurisdiction in the case because of a Louisiana law which

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forbids conspiracy of any kind—and that leaves the FBI, the Secret Service, the CIA and Mr. Gerald Ford out in the cold.

In a television interview last night in his home surrounded by armed guards, Mr. Garrison stuck his neck out. He declined to hand over much of anything to anyone.

"I am running this investigation," he said, "not the Attorney General. I am in charge of the whole operation and I am not about to turn it over to anybody."

Mr. Ford, apparently acting after consultation with other members of the Warren Commission, including former CIA director Allen Dulles, responded rather peremptorily, saying that President Johnson should be made aware at once of the evidence obtained in the case so far, "so that it can be properly analysed by the proper authorities."

Chief Justice Earl Warren, who headed the commission, could not be reached for comment, but it is believed he agrees with Mr. Ford.

Names

In his TV appearance last night Mr. Garrison was more emphatic than ever in saying that his inquiry would lead to arrests and convictions for conspiracy in connection with the Kennedy assassination.

"We have names," he said. "We are not wasting either our own time or the public money. We are serious."

Yesterday a Cuban exile, Bernardo Torres, who helped the Secret Service guard President Kennedy in Florida four days before the assassination, and who has been helping Mr. Garrison with his inquiries, said: "Another chapter will be added to the Warren Report when this investigation is released."

Mr. Torres said he was one of ten Cubans who helped protect President Kennedy in Miami, which has a large Cuban colony.

"The Secret Service definitely expected an attempt against Kennedy's life," Mr. Torres added.

It is understood that Mr. Garrison is working on the theory that President Kennedy's death was plotted by Cuban exiles angry at the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961.

'Coincidence'

NEW YORK: Lawyer Melvin Bell, who defended Dallas club owner Jack Ruby at his trial for shooting Oswald, said he did not believe there was any plot to kill the President.

It was just a coincidence that Ruby and Oswald had been in New Orleans at the same time, he said.

He knew Ruby—who has since died of cancer—had connections in New Orleans but said he was only trying to ingratiate himself with "a wealthy Mafia type who was involved in Las Vegas gambling."

—Reuter.